

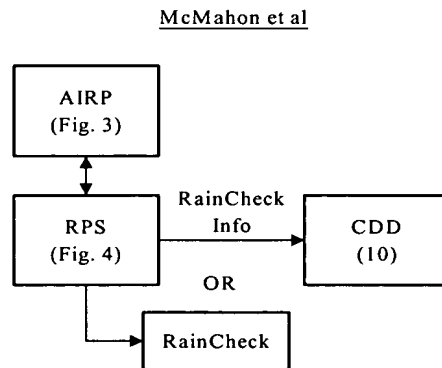
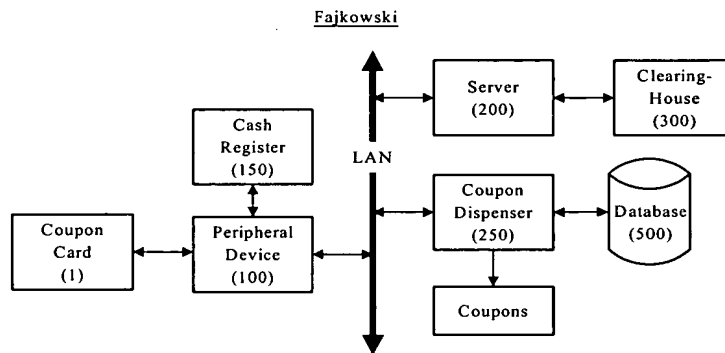
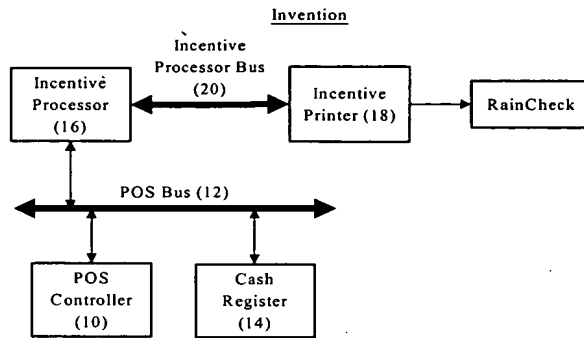
In the present Office Action, Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fajkowski (5,905,246) in view of McMahon et al (5,789,732).

First, Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Lastra and SPE Trammell for the interview held on September 28, 2000, with Applicant's representative. During the interview, the arguments as substantially provided herein were discussed. Although no agreement was reached, Applicant's representative noted what are believed to be patentably distinguishing differences between the claimed invention and the applied references, whether taken alone or in combination, as will be further discussed herein.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that the IDS filed March 2, 2000, appears to not have been considered by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the IDS by returning the form PTO 1449 included therein and initialed by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 and claims dependent therefrom are patentably distinguishable over Fajkowski and McMahon et al, taken alone or in combination, based on the following discussion.

Applicant submits that Fajkowski and McMahon et al, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest Applicant's invention, as recited in independent Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25. The following figures correspond to Applicant's claimed invention and the inventions of Fajkowski and McMahon et al to illustrate the differences therebetween.



Applicant respectfully submits that as is evident from the above-noted figures, Fajkowski fail to teach or suggest an incentive processor bus and an incentive printer coupled thereto as recited in the claimed invention. Applicant notes that the present Office Action

asserts that the peripheral device 100 corresponds to both the claimed incentive processor and POS controller and that the POS bus corresponds to the individual serial connection between the peripheral device 100 and the cash register 150. However, Applicants submit that the peripheral device 100 of Fajkowski does not teach or suggest the claimed incentive processor and POS controller. Further, Applicants submit that the only bus believed to be disclosed by Fajkowski is the LAN coupling the peripheral device 100, the server 200 and the coupon dispenser 250. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the individual serial connection between the cash register 150 and the peripheral device 100 of Fajkowski does not teach or suggest the claimed POS bus.

Based on the above discussion, Applicant submits that Fajkowski fails to teach or suggest the noted features of Applicant's invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25.

Applicant submits that McMahon et al merely teach an AIRP (Fig. 3), coupled to an RPS (Fig. 4), wherein the RPS can print rainchecks or submit raincheck information to the CDD (10), but fail to cure the noted deficiencies in Fajkowski.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Fajkowski and McMahon et al, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the noted features of the claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention provides improved raincheck distribution and redemption, as compared to conventional methods and systems, such as that of Fajkowski and McMahon et al.

Applicant submits that Fajkowski and McMahon et al, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the noted features of the claimed invention.

Based on the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 and claims dependent therefrom are patentably distinguishable over Fajkowski and McMahon et al, taken alone or in combination.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAYER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Carlos R. Villamar
Registration No. 43,224



22850

(703) 413-3000

Fax #: (703) 413-2220

I:\atty\CRV\7791\77910068.am; RAN:CRV/crv